IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method of reserving a transmission band of a transmission line for transmitting data via a plurality of Internet service providers on the Internet between first and second communication devices, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) the first communication device requesting an intermediary server to reserve the transmission band by transmitting a user policy; and

(b) the intermediary server reserving the transmission band for the first and second communication devices,

wherein the reserving step further includes the steps of:

receiving the user policy;

searching for IP addresses of policy servers of the plurality of Internet service providers;

transmitting the user policy to each policy server corresponding to one of the plurality of Internet service providers;

receiving a band reservation result from each corresponding policy server;

determining whether the requested band reservation is confirmed by the band reservation results; and

transmitting the band reservation results to the first communication device.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first communication device transmits IP addresses of the first and second communication devices, IP addresses of each of a plurality of routers on the transmission line between the first and second communication devices, and a desired band value to be reserved to the intermediary server.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the intermediary server identifies a band reservation setting server ~~servers~~ for each of the plurality of routers from the IP addresses thereof, ~~the~~ each of the band reservation setting servers causing its ~~their~~ respective router ~~routers~~ to reserve the transmission band.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the intermediary server identifies the band reservation setting servers by referring to a table on which IP addresses of each of the band reservations servers is ~~are~~ recorded so as to be correlated with an IP address of its ~~those of their~~ respective router ~~routers~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, wherein each of the band reservation setting servers causes its ~~cause their~~ respective router ~~routers~~ to reserve the transmission band in accordance with band setting requests transmitted from the intermediary server.

Claim 6 (original) The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

(c) the first communication device requesting the intermediary server to release the reserved transmission band; and

(d) the intermediary server releasing the reserved transmission band.

Claim 7 (original) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the intermediary server instructs the band reservation setting servers to release the reserved transmission band.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein each of the band reservation setting servers causes its ~~cause their~~ respective router ~~routers~~ to release the reserved transmission band in accordance with a band release request ~~requests~~ transmitted from the intermediary server.

Claim 9 (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the intermediary server, instead of the desired band value, utilizes an ID of one of the Internet service providers to which one the second communication device is connected and IP addresses of communication devices connected to the one of the Internet service providers, the ID and the IP addresses being transmitted from the one of the Internet service providers.

Claim 10 (original) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the desired band value is a transmission rate at which the second communication device is connected to the one of the Internet service providers.

Claim 11 (original) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the intermediary server transmits an inquiry about the transmission rate to the one of the Internet service providers.

Claim 12 (original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the one of the Internet service providers responds to the inquiry from the intermediary server.

Claim 13 (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first communication device transmits IP addresses of the first and second communication devices, and IP addresses of routers on the transmission line to the intermediary server.

Claim 14 (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a desired value of the transmission band is a transmission rate at which the second communication device is connected to a corresponding one of the Internet service providers.

Claim 15 (original) The method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the intermediary server transmits an inquiry about the transmission rate to the corresponding one of the Internet service providers.

Claim 16 (original) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the corresponding one of the Internet service providers responds to the inquiry from the intermediary server.

Claim 17 (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

the second communication device is connected to one of the Internet service providers which one includes a copy server having a copy of a content distributed by the first communication device; and

the first communication device, based on a request of the second communication device for the content, informs the copy server that the content is distributed from the copy server to the second communication device by reserving a transmission band between the first communication device and the second communication device ~~therebetween~~.

Claim 18 (original) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the copy server transmits an IP address thereof, an IP address of the second communication device, a desired band value to be reserved, and IP addresses of all routers between the copy server and the second communication device to the intermediary server.

Claims 19 - 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (currently amended) A device for reserving a transmission band of a transmission line for transmitting data via a plurality of Internet service providers (ISPs) on the Internet between first and second communication devices,

wherein [[:]]the transmission band is reserved at a request of the first communication device to reserve the transmission band, and

wherein the device is operable to perform the steps of:

storing IP addresses of servers of the ISPs,

storing a request of the first communication device to reserve the transmission band;

communicating over the Internet with the servers to request reservation of the transmission band; and

storing results of reservations of the transmission band, the results being returned from the servers in response to the reservation requested by the device.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A device for reserving a transmission band of a transmission line for transmitting data via a plurality of Internet service providers (ISPs) on the Internet between first and second communication devices, the device comprising:

a first part storing IP addresses of servers of the Internet service providers, ~~the servers reserving the transmission band~~;

a second part storing a request of the first communication device to reserve the transmission band;

a third part for communicating over the Internet with the servers to request reservation of the transmission band; and

a fourth ~~third~~ part storing results of reservations of the transmission band, the results being returned by ~~from~~ the servers in response to the reservation request made via the third part,

wherein the device, upon receiving the request of the first communication device, refers to the first and second parts to instruct the servers via the third part to reserve the transmission band, recording the results of the reservations returned from the servers in the fourth part, and informing the first communication device whether a reservation of the transmission band is confirmed by analyzing the results stored in the fourth part.